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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Washington

July 23, 1926

F.S.
A-57

FOREIGN NEWS ON APPLES

AUSTRALIAN APPLES MEETING ADVERSE CONDITIONS IN ENGLAND

Apples from Australia, Tasmania and New Zealand have been meeting with very depressed trade conditions in Great Britain almost from the start of the season. Liberal supplies were coming upon the British markets in April before the American apples were cleaned up. The American deal of last year is a matter of history, it being one of the most disappointing that the industry has ever experienced in overseas markets. There is no question but that apple consumption received a severe set-back and that publicity surrounding the apple with doubt caused consumers in the United Kingdom to switch to other fruits.

Besides inheriting grief from the American deal Australasian exporters had their heavy shipments arriving in Great Britain in the face of the General Strike, to be followed by trade depression incident to the long drawnout coal strike. The effects of the coal strike have been very complex and very serious. The unemployed workers, exclusive of the miners out of work on account of the strike, numbered 1,638,600 on June 28 as compared with 1,634,700 on June 21 and 1,368,000 at the end of June 1925. The industries most seriously affected were Cotton; Steel and Iron; Engineering; Woolen; Pottery and Earthenware; Building and Boot and Shoe.

These have been trying conditions to meet when the Southern Hemisphere countries were attempting to market the heaviest crops in their histories. Results thus far have been more than disheartening. Early in June British auction prices on Australian and Tasmanian apples had fallen to from \$2.00 to \$2.88 per box. With quantities arriving in excess of the demand and with local English fruits competing in depressed markets, the second week in July witnessed many varieties of apples selling as low as 75¢ per box. Even the favored, golden-skinned Tasmanian Cleo brought but \$2.64, with lower grades selling down to \$1.20 per box.

These conditions do not augur well for American exports which will begin to arrive in Great Britain next month. As long as the coal strike continues we can expect industries dependent upon coal for fuel to have short pay-rolls. A factor which will tend to offset the depressed demand at the time of arrival of our apples is the short crop of market apples in English orchards. Earlier reports are being confirmed that their crop is to be the shortest in years.

Apples throughout Germany are reported as being better than a fair crop, according to W. A. Schoenfeld, United States Agricultural Commissioner at Berlin. He also reports that throughout Holland, Denmark and Sweden apples are less than a fair crop. Apples in Belgium will be less than half a crop.



Pears are promising above a fair crop all over Western Europe. Mr. E. A. Foley, United States Agricultural Commissioner at London, reports that the pear crop in Belgium was not so adversely affected by spring frost as was the apple crop of that country. The principal Continental sources of pears reaching Great Britain being in France and Belgium, and with good pear crops in both of these countries, we may expect the British pear market to be well supplied during August and September.

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